United Nations A/ES-10/531 S/2011/541

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 August 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 26 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, is continuing its military campaign against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and the relevant provisions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the prohibition of reprisals and collective punishment against the civilian population under occupation. The intensification of Israel's aggression against the Gaza Strip threatens to further destabilize the situation on the ground and to fully ignite yet another round of deadly violence. This demands the attention of the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is duty-bound to act to maintain international peace and security. The Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to which the Fourth Geneva Convention is fully applicable, must not continue to be an exception for the upholding of that duty.

Over the past few days, the civilian casualty toll has continued to mount as a result of the Israeli onslaught, with at least 11 Palestinian civilians killed and more than 30 people injured, including women and children, and several people critically wounded and struggling to survive. All of the killings and injuries have been caused by military air strikes carried out by the occupying Power against civilian areas in Gaza. These air strikes have included targeted attacks by which Israel has barbarically perpetrated yet more extrajudicial executions of Palestinians.

In this regard, on 24 August 2011, Israel carried out a deliberate air strike on a car travelling in the Rafah area, killing Ismail Al-Asmar, aged 34, and another air strike later in the day against the Al-Sheikh Radwan area of Gaza City, killing Attiyyeh Mahmoud Miqat, aged 21. Another man, Ismail Ammoum, aged 65, was killed in an Israeli attack near Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, his charred and dismembered body once again confirming the viciousness of the weaponry being used by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population.

11-48272 (E) 300811

Please recycle

Yesterday, 25 August 2011, the Israeli occupying forces launched a series of air strikes, killing at least eight Palestinians and wounding dozens of others. Shockingly, an air assault was carried out against a gymnasium, Al-Salam (Peace) Sports Club, in a densely populated civilian area in Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza Strip, killing one child, Salama Al-Masri, aged 17, and Alaa' Adnan Al-Jakhbair, aged 22, and injuring 20 other civilians, including 7 children and 4 women. Also on 25 August, Israel launched attacks targeting Al-Sudaniyya neighbourhood of Gaza City, killing Saleem Khaled Al-Arabeed, aged 25, and Alaa' Abu Al-Khair, aged 24, and an attack on the Rafah area, which resulted in the killing of Emad Abu Harb, aged 32, Rajaa' Mahmoud Al-Sebakhi, aged 19, Mohammed Taqesh, aged 19, and Hisham Abu Harb, aged 21.

The Palestinian leadership reiterates its strongest condemnation of this escalation of Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, which has included the deliberate killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as the deliberate destruction of civilian property and infrastructure. We reiterate the demand for an immediate halt to all military operations by Israel, the occupying Power, against the defenseless Palestinian civilian population and for its respect of the Fourth Geneva Convention throughout the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Such Israeli acts of terror and violence — whether in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and including the ongoing violent rampages of the Israeli settlers — are clearly intended to sow more fear, trauma and suffering among the Palestinian civilian population, to provoke a new cycle of bloodshed and to further destabilize the already fragile situation, and must not be tolerated. The international community, and particularly the Security Council, must demand that Israel immediately cease its military aggression and abide by all of its obligations under international law. Such a firm and clear stand is urgent for averting the loss of more innocent lives and for averting the descent into yet another deadly and destructive cycle of violence between the two sides, with the attendant negative ramifications for the region and beyond, that will take us even further from the prospects of a just and peaceful settlement to this prolonged and tragic conflict.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 402 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 August 2011 (A/ES-10/530-S/2011/529), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of those war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/532–S/2011/597

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 September 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 28 September 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you at a historic moment for Palestine and for the long-standing, just cause of the Palestinian people. The application of the State of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations is now before the Security Council, following its submission by President Mahmoud Abbas on 23 September 2011.

The submission of Palestine's application for United Nations membership was followed by the historic statement of President Abbas to the General Assembly, in which he conveyed the deep pain and suffering of the Palestinian people, who have endured more than 63 years of dispossession and exile and more than 44 years of foreign military occupation by Israel, which continues to oppress the Palestinian people and to colonize the Palestinian land. Yet, he also conveyed the deep hopes of the Palestinian people for the realization of their inalienable rights, including their rights to self-determination and return, and their legitimate national aspirations for justice and peace in their own independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, where they can live in freedom and dignity, equal among the community of nations.

President Abbas further reaffirmed the readiness of the Palestinian leadership to engage seriously in peaceful political and diplomatic efforts to achieve the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, including through the resumption of credible, good-faith negotiations on all final status issues based clearly on the long-standing terms of reference of the Middle East Peace Process, namely, the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

Leaders from all corners of the globe have expressed their support for the efforts of the Palestinian leadership at this critical juncture and, once more, from the podium of the august Assembly, repeatedly reaffirmed support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their independent State on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. In this regard, it must be stressed that the overwhelming

11-52552 (E) 031011

Please recycle

majority of leaders also reaffirmed that Israel's ongoing settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is illegal, totally contradictory to the spirit and objective of the peace process, the main obstacle to the two-State solution and a provocative unilateral act that must immediately and fully cease.

Regrettably, however, Israel continues to ignore and belittle the calls of the international community, ignore and breach international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions, and ignore the winds of change throughout the region and the globe, persisting instead with its illegal and destructive settlement campaign and undermining the efforts of all concerned parties to salvage the peace process and resume the negotiations for achievement of the two-State solution.

Israel, the occupying Power, refuses to stop its settlement activities and, in fact, it has intensified its illegal actions in the recent period alongside the escalation of settler terror and violence against the Palestinian people. The latest provocative declaration of further colonization was made yesterday, just days following the statement of the Quartet of 23 September 2011, which aims to revive the negotiations and which, inter alia, recalled previous statements by the Quartet and the basis of a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and called upon the parties to respect their obligations under the Roadmap, which clearly requires a freeze of all Israeli settlement activities.

We strongly condemn the decision by the Israeli Government to approve the construction of yet another 1,100 new units in the illegal settlement of "Gilo" on confiscated Palestinian land in the town of Beit Jala near Bethlehem. Such actions by the occupying Power are indicative of its intransigence and its utter disrespect for international law, United Nations resolutions, agreements reached, international obligations, and the will of the international community. Time and time again, Israel proves through word and deed that it is neither capable nor willing to abandon its expansionist, annexationist agenda in order to seriously engage in peacemaking.

At the same time, due attention must be given to the need for protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Palestinian civilians, including children, continue to be subjected to physical attacks and severe harassment and intimidation at the hands of armed Israeli settlers. Palestinian properties also continue to be targeted by violent settler attacks, with yet another mosque vandalized near Nablus and the destruction of more agricultural fields and orchards. In the last month alone, over 173 settler attacks have been documented and over 1,660 trees have been uprooted and destroyed, wreaking havoc on Palestinian lives and the livelihoods of more Palestinian families. Moreover, on Friday, 23 September, a Palestinian man, Issam Kamal Odeh, age 33 years, was killed by the Israeli occupying forces during clashes instigated by settlers, who had once again raided the village of Qusra near Nablus.

Israel's settlers in the West Bank have also been engaged in a vicious campaign of incitement against the Palestinian people. On 25 September it was reported that Israeli settlers hung posters displaying anti-Arab slogans on the main road between Al-Khalil (Hebron) and Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in other areas. Some of the slogans read: "This is the land of Israel" and "We will slaughter Arabs". In this regard, the constant threats of greater violence and destruction against the Palestinian people by Israeli settlers is a real danger that will further destabilize the volatile situation on the ground and that requires immediate redress

by the occupying Power, which must be held fully accountable for the acts of its settlers, whom it protects and allows to rampage.

The timing and audacity of Israel's recent settlement expansion and the escalation of settler terror can be understood only as the occupying Power's response to the international efforts to resume the peace process, including the efforts of the Quartet. We call on the international community to take a stand for peace and to make abundantly clear to Israel, the occupying Power, that its settlement campaign is illegal and unrecognized and must fully cease, for it is totally incompatible with the two-State solution and, if not ceased, will bring to an end the viability of this solution. It is high time for the international community, including the Security Council, to hold Israel responsible for all such deplorable acts of defiance of the law and for its continuing obstruction of the attainment of peace and security in our region of the world, for which we are all exerting tireless efforts.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 403 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 August 2011 (A/ES-10/531-S/2011/541), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/533 S/2011/606

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 30 September 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my letter of 28 September 2011, I regret to inform you of the continued escalation of Israeli aggression and oppression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In the midst of serious efforts by the Palestinian leadership and the international community to resume a credible political process aimed at achieving a peaceful solution, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to move in the opposite direction, refusing to commit to the path of peace.

The following are just a few of the examples of the violations and crimes committed in the recent period by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people:

- Punitive and humiliating measures continue to be inflicted on the thousands of Palestinians detained and imprisoned by Israel. Such measures include the imposition of solitary confinement on prisoners, which is described by some who have spent more than 10 years in isolation as a "slow death" policy. Palestinian prisoners, including children, also continue to be subjected to unhygienic conditions, physical and mental abuse and other forms of inhumane treatment, including torture. The persistence of this Israeli policy and its deliberate intensification, as well as recent comments by the Israeli Defense Minister that Palestinian prisoners have no rights in Israeli jails in response to demands to end humiliating measures, has led Palestinian prisoners to begin a hunger strike in at least 20 Israeli prisons and detention centres.

- The occupying Power also continues with its daily military raids and arrests. In the recent period, this has included the detention of two Palestinian children, Wajd Abu Hlayyil, aged 8, and Umran Mansour, aged 10, from the Silwan area of Occupied East Jerusalem. In this regard, reports have emerged of Israeli occupying forces also forcibly entering Palestinian homes in the

Please recycle

night, seizing children and photographing them for the purpose of so-called "military mapping exercises" used to later identify and apprehend children involved in stone-throwing or other activities. The most recent such incident was documented in the village of Nabi Saleh, where Palestinian residents hold weekly protests against Israeli colonization.

- This week also witnessed the arrest and detention of another Palestinian elected official, Ahmad Attoun from East Jerusalem, who was seized by the occupying forces from an International Committee of the Red Cross building where he and two other officials, Mohammed Totah and Khaled Abu Arafeh, who had taken shelter after Israel revoked their Jerusalem residencies and declared a decision to deport them in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibition on the forcible transfer of civilians from occupied territory.

- As conveyed in my letter of 28 September, the occupying Power also persists with its illegal settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around East Jerusalem. In addition to the rabid construction of new settlement units, Israel has been handing down a series of military orders for the confiscation of more Palestinian land and properties. Recently, the Israeli occupying forces notified the village of Battir near Bethlehem of new confiscation orders for 148 dunums of land owned by 40 families and containing vegetable, fruit and olive groves and water wells on which these families subsist. This land has been targeted because of its proximity to the train line being built to connect Israel's illegal settlements. Also, families in the village of Beit Ummar, south of Bethlehem, were served with military orders for the confiscation of 800 dunums of land for the building of yet another Israeli-only bypass road, in addition to the hundreds of such roads that are severing Palestinian communities, displacing more and more families, and destroying the contiguity of the Palestinian land.

- Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and properties also continues. A primary school for Bedouin children in the Jordan Valley has been served demolition orders this week and is just one of many structures in the area targeted for demolition by the occupying Power, which has destroyed at least 342 Palestinian structures in these rural and marginalized areas. Yesterday, 29 September, the occupying Power also served home demolition orders to seven families from Ezbet Shofeh village, south-east of Tulkarem. The Israeli occupying forces that raided the village informed the families that they must carry out the demolitions within one week's time or it will be carried out by the occupying forces at the owners' expense.

- Israeli settler attacks also continue throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Yesterday, settlers rampaged on lands belonging to Palestinian families in the town of Al-Dhahiryeh south of Al-Khalil, destroying over 55 olive trees and vandalizing properties with threatening anti-Palestinian graffiti. Also yesterday, dozens of armed Israeli settlers, under the protection of the army, raided the village of Yasouf in the northern West Bank. The settlers fired live ammunition to intimidate and terrorize the farmers in the area to force them to leave their lands. Settlers from an illegal settlement near Nablus also attacked and destroyed water pipelines emanating from a water spring in the village of Madama.

Israel's illegal actions are further poisoning the environment and exacerbating tensions between the two sides and further complicating the efforts being made by concerned parties for peace. Such actions will only undermine the chances for any real progress and threaten to further destabilize an already unsustainable situation with far-reaching consequences, including with regard to the viability of the two-State solution. We therefore reiterate our appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold international law and their responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security and to take the necessary measures to bring to a halt Israel's violations with a view to stabilizing the situation and making progress.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 404 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 September 2011 (A/ES-10/532-S/2011/597) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations